

Art Unit: 2878

9. (Once Amended) The method for marking articles according to any of claims [1 -7] 1-6, characterised in that generating private keys, data encrypting, generating a random image, applying the image on to the marked surface, reading the resulting image and applying the encrypted code on to the marked surface is performed by the marking means;

data transferring to the control center is also effected by the marking means, while at least keys are transferred to the control center through the path ensuring confidentiality;

the control center stores the keys and codes in the database.

any one of claims

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3-23-05 10. The method for marking articles according to claim 2-8, characterized in that

- generating private keys; data encrypting and storing is effected in the remote control center;
- applying the image, modifying the surface texture with the applied image, scanning the resulting image and applying the code is performed by the marking device;
- data exchange between the marking means and the control center is performed over communication channels.

11. The method for marking articles according to claim 1, characterized in that

- generating private keys; data encrypting, as well as applying the image, scanning the resulting image and applying the code is performed by the marking device;
- the marking means transmits the data on the image to the control center, which stores them in the database; at least the keys are transferred to the control center by the path ensuring confidential transmission.

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- transferring data on the readout image to the remote control center;
- generating private keys;
- encoding the obtained unique image data by means of private keys;
- transferring the encoded image to the marking station;
- applying the resulting code on to the marking surface;
- storing the keys in the control center database;
- verifying the existence and the pattern of the texture on the marking surface; and then
- test reading the marking image and the applied code;
- transferring the readout image data and the code to the control center;
- decrypting the code data and recovering the readout image data;
- comparing the recovered data on the image received after the check reading;
- transferring the results of comparing to the checking terminal.

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18. The method for authentication according to ^{claim or} ~~claims~~ 16, 17, characterized in that the data on the performed tests are stored in the control center; the number of the same code tests being summarized, and when the set value is exceeded, a signal warning on the exceedance is produced.

19. The system for authentication of articles according to claim 1, comprising a marking means, including

- a printer,
- a printer control device,
- a readout device,
- an image processing unit,
- a communication means; and
- a remote processing and storage center, comprising,
 - a key generating unit,
 - an encrypting/decrypting unit,
 - a memory unit,
 - a compare facility, and

blank parts for labels,

characterized in that the marking device further includes